



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Enquiries: V Kubheka
Telephone: 031-336-2862
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 387 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA); is attached for your consideration.


DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 4/3/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/ AMENDED


MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2010. 03. 09

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 387

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 FEBRUARY 2010
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 4)

387. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) Whether her department will release the water monitoring reports from the waste pits on land owned by her department in Hammarsdale, KwaZulu-Natal; if not, (a) why not and (b) why is there a need to have a public meeting before the water monitoring reports can be released; if so, when;
- (2) whether her department intends (a)(i) rehabilitating and (ii) fencing the entire site, (b) improving firebreaks and (c) installing warning signs in isiZulu around the site; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether she will visit the site to acquaint herself with the relevant issues; if not, why not; if so, when?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) Yes, results of the Water Monitoring Analysis of the ponds that were operated by My Department will be released.
- (1)(b) My Department deems it appropriate to inform the local community about the results of the monitoring as they live the closest to the ponds. My Department has a responsibility to inform the public if mercury from the sludge ponds has/is likely to have any adverse impacts on the Shongweni Dam. The meeting is scheduled to take place by the end of March 2010 pending confirmation of the date with all parties involved.
- (2)(a)(i) Yes, My Department intends to rehabilitate this site to ensure public safety around the site. Temporary remedial measures were implemented by my Department during the 2005/06 financial year, but such measures could not be completed due to budgetary constraints.
- (2)(a)(ii) Yes, My Department intends to fence the pond areas.
- (2)(b) The existing firebreaks have been improved.
- (2)(c) English warning signs have been placed however isiZulu warning signs are still to be placed.
- (3) My Department's Regional Office: KwaZulu-Natal officials have adequately briefed me on the matter and are currently in the process of addressing the matter.

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